

From the California Faculty Association

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May 20, 2008 · Weekly news digest from CFA

THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

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THE STATE BUDGET AND THE CSU

· GOV RESTORES \$97.6 MILLION TO CSU IN MAY BUDGET REVISION

The thousands of calls, faxes and letters sent to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger by the Alliance for the CSU must have made a strong impression because when he made public his revised plan for the 2008/09 state budget Wednesday, \$97.6 million in state funding had been added back to the CSU.

Under this revised budget proposal—known at the Capitol as the ‘May Revise’—the governor reduced the proposed budget cuts to the CSU from \$386 to \$288 million.

“The governor’s revised budget plan is a step in the right direction toward adequately funding our state university system,” said CFA President Lillian Taiz.

Taiz continued, “Now the supporters of the CSU must ramp up our efforts to get the remainder of the necessary CSU funding in the budget by taking our message to the state Legislature. We are hopeful that the members of the Legislature will continue the Governor’s step in the right direction by fully funding public higher education.”

Now that the Governor’s budget revision has been revealed, the focus of the Alliance for the CSU will shift to the members of the state legislature.

State lawmakers will devote the next month to budget hearings. At some point the state Assembly and Senate each will vote on budget bills. Then “conference committees” will attempt to reconcile the two houses’ and governor’s budget plans.

See the governor’s proposed budget docs at: <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov>

See his revised budget plan for the CSU at:
<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/pdf/Revised/BudgetSummary/HigherEducation.pdf>

- CFA PRESIDENT EDITORIALIZES ON THE BUDGET

In an opinion article by CFA President Lillian Taiz published Sunday in the Ventura County Star, Taiz outlined the CSU’s contributions to California and the importance of funding public higher education in the state.

Taiz wrote: “About 90,000 students will graduate from the 23 campuses of the California State University over the next few weeks. As they seek work, debate over the state budget will intensify. Part of that debate includes the future of the state university system, and the fate of the millions of future students it might — or might not — serve.”

To view the editorial, go to:
http://calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper_articles/2008/VCS_051808_LilEditorial.pdf?_r=1&oref=slogin

CFA encourages faculty, staff and students concerned about the budget crisis to post comments below the article indicating that they agree with Taiz’ sentiment and would like to see more coverage of this topic.

The article and comments section can be reached at:
<http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2008/may/18/does-california-have-what-it-takes/>

- ALLIANCE TO REACH OUT TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY AT GRADUATIONS

The next phase in the Alliance for the CSU's efforts to raise awareness about the budget cuts and to build its coalition of supporters will take place over the next few weeks at commencement ceremonies across the state.

During graduation events, members of the Alliance will hand out literature about what the budget cuts would mean for the CSU. They will collect commitment cards from friends and family members in attendance.

To learn more about the commencement day events in your area, contact your campus CFA office or chapter president.

To find your local chapter, go to: <http://calfac.org/chapters.html>

- JOIN/HELP THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CSU

Sign up today to be part of this growing coalition. It takes less than a minute to sign up.

Be ready, so that at key moments in the budget process – which unfortunately can happen this summer when most faculty and students are away from campus – the Alliance can contact you with important alerts.

Add your name to the Alliance for the CSU today at:
<http://www.alliancefortheesu.org/signup.html>

You can also send an email to others asking them to join the Alliance, by going to: http://www.alliancefortheesu.org/tell_friend.php

Also, on the Alliance for the CSU website, view the “10 ways you can help” the CSU.

This document is available to download at:
<http://www.alliancefortheesu.org/Resources/10%20things%20you%20can%20do.pdf>

This week's suggestion: Write the editor!

By writing a letter to the editor and sending it to your local or campus newspaper, you can show assignment editors that readers, listeners and viewers are interested in a topic. Letters encourage them to continue to report on that topic. This is especially important right now as the budget process intensifies at the Capitol.

To learn more about sending a letter, go to: <http://calfac.org/letter.html>

- SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PASS RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALLIANCE

The San Francisco State chapter of the Alliance for the CSU teamed with San Francisco City Supervisor Tom Ammiano Tuesday to garner the passage of a resolution in support of funding for public higher education.

The resolution was introduced at the Board of Supervisors' Tuesday meeting and passed unanimously, with the exception of one supervisor who was not in attendance.

The Board was so enthusiastic about the resolution, in fact, that Supervisor Carmen Chu requested to be added as a co-sponsor of the measure, along with Ammiano and fellow Supervisors Sean Elsbernd and Bevan Dufty.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce also sent a letter to the supervisors endorsing the resolution and requesting that the legislature and the governor restore funding to the CSU.

San Francisco State CFA Chapter President Ramón Castellblanch expressed to the supervisors that this would be the first of many such resolutions in support of the Alliance, saying, "this is an important first step on the part of local government to take a stand on behalf of public higher education."

Prior to the event, more than 150 students, faculty members, staff, administrators and supporters from San Francisco State and City College of San Francisco turned out for a rally on the steps of City Hall in support of the Alliance.

At the rally, former San Francisco labor council leader Walter Johnson – who will be receiving an honorary degree from San Francisco State this weekend – commented that, "I never had a graduation myself, but I have great appreciation for teachers. You (teachers and faculty members) are not limiting yourselves to teaching, you are in this battle to make sure students get a chance to get a great education."

STUDENT FEES

- TRUSTEES VOTE TO INCREASE STUDENT FEES

Last Wednesday, the CSU Board of Trustees voted to increase undergraduate student fees for the upcoming academic year by 10%.

The Trustees passed the measure – which will result in fees having doubled since 2001 – over the objections of Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, Trustee Melinda Guzman and student Trustee Jennifer Reimer.

Effective in fall 2008, fees will increase by \$276 for undergraduate students, \$324 for teacher credential students and \$342 for graduate students.

CFA Vice President Kim Gerón addressed the Trustees on the fee increase saying, "This student fee increase could not come at a worse time for struggling California families. The costs of housing, healthcare, food, and gasoline are rising unchecked."

Gerón continued, "When combined with these 'educational fee increases,' working class families will be denied the very educational path that could lift them out of economic stress. The most effective form of financial aid for California would be to fully fund the CSU budget to help reverse the current economic downturn for all the citizens of the state."

To learn more about the 2008/09 fee increase, go to:

<http://www.calstate.edu/PA/info/fees-increase-info0809.shtml>

- LA DAILY NEWS: STUDENTS PAY PRICE FOR SHAKY ECONOMY

The Los Angeles Daily News became the latest media outlet to delve into the human toll that continually rising fees take on students in the CSU and UC systems.

The article paints a vivid picture of how working class students are struggling to cope with fees that have doubled since 2001.

The article also features commentary and a picture of former Northridge CFA intern and current California State Student Association President Dina Cervantes, who has been instrumental in organizing student support for the Alliance.

To view the article, go to:

http://calfac.org/allpdf/newspaper_articles/2008/LADN_051908_studentFees.pdf?_r=1&oref=slogin

- 16 UC STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR PROTESTING BUDGET CUTS

Elsewhere last week, the UC Board of Regents also voted to hike student fees for the upcoming term by 7.4%, or \$490, per year for undergraduates.

That decision was met with fierce resistance from the hundred or so students who had gathered at the meeting to protest the fee hike.

Following the approval of the fee hike – which passed by a margin of seven to two – sixteen of the students in attendance staged a civil disobedience action by chanting and locking arms until the Regents were forced leave their meeting and the police were called.

The students who staged the action were subsequently arrested and charged with misdemeanors for disturbing a public meeting.

- OC REGISTER BLOG TACKLES FEE HIKE

On Monday morning, the Orange County Register's education blog "College Life" published a thoughtful piece about the real-life impact of fee increases on working class students.

The blog's author – himself a CSU professor – told a personal story of having to comfort a crying student who was worried about being unable to afford school following this latest fee hike.

CFA is encouraging faculty members to read this blog and leave a comment with your own story about the problems you see facing CSU students.

To view the blog and leave a comment, go to:

<http://collegelife.freedomblogging.com/2008/05/16/pending-cal-state-fee-increases-will-be-disastrous/>

OTHER NEWS

- NEW SAN JOSE STATE PRESIDENT NAMED

The CSU Trustees have named Jon S. Whitmore the new president of San Jose State University. Whitmore – who is currently president of Texas Tech University in Lubbock – will succeed Don Kassing as President.

"We look forward to working with Dr. Whitmore," said Elizabeth Cara, CFA Chapter President at San Jose. "His vision included the administration cooperating with all of the university's employees in order to make SJSU better university that ultimately serves our students. When touring the campus on the day of action against the budget cuts to the CSU, Dr. Whitmore and his wife enthusiastically signed faxes to the governor."

Whitmore will begin his term as president August 1.

- CFA ENDORSEMENTS FOR JUNE 3 ELECTION

CFA has endorsed a number of candidates running in primaries for the state legislature.

To view the list of CFA endorsed candidates, go to:

<http://calfac.org/endorsements.html>

Prior to making endorsements, CFA members interview and evaluate candidates on relevant issues: candidate views on collective bargaining in general and collective bargaining rights for faculty; funding for the CSU and public accountability regarding use of the funds; commitment to student and faculty diversity; and tax-reform measures.

Candidates are selected based on their stands on these and other local issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21

Students for Quality Education "Speak Out Against the Budget Cuts" rally
CSU San Bernardino from Noon-1:30pm at the Library Lawn

May 22

Students for Quality Education "Speak Out Against the Budget Cuts" rally
Cal State Los Angeles from Noon-1:30 in front of the Bookstore

May 22

CSU East Bay Budget Crisis Community Meeting
Noon, Student Union Room 311

May 26

Memorial Day
CFA Offices closed

June 3

Primary Election Day

June 5

San Jose Budget Town Hall with legislators
For more info contact SJSU CFA chapter or, go to:
<http://adc.asm.ca.gov/issues/budget>

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*See back issues of CFA Headlines, sent each Tuesday, at <http://www.calfac.org/headlines.html>
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